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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**National Weather Service to Provide
New River Forecast Services at Cocoa, Florida**

The National Weather Service forecast office in Melbourne, FL, and the Southeast River Forecast Center in Peachtree City, GA will now provide five day river stage forecasts for the St. Johns River near Cocoa, FL. The river forecasts will be issued whenever the river is at risk of reaching flood level over the next five days.

Beginning August 1, 2013, the new service will help protect the lives and property of people living along the river near Cocoa. Flood stage at this location is set at 16.2 feet. The new river gage site is owned and operated by the United States Geological Survey.

“The addition of Cocoa to our river forecast responsibilities will provide enhanced flood warning services for residents along the St. Johns River,” said David Sharp, the acting meteorologist-in-charge of the Melbourne office. Peggy Glitto, the hydrology program leader also added, “Having a river forecast point at Cocoa will help better convey flood concerns during hurricane and tropical storm events.”

The Melbourne forecast office provides all weather services for ten counties in East Central Florida. The office collects meteorological data; prepares and disseminates weather forecasts, river and flood forecasts and warnings; and issues severe weather watches and warnings to the public.

The Southeast River Forecast Center prepares river stage forecasts for the Southeast United States, including East Central Florida. These forecasts are forwarded to National Weather Service forecast offices in its service area for dissemination to the public.

The National Weather Service is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for the United States and its territories. It operates the most advanced weather and flood warning and forecast system in the world, helping to protect lives and property and enhance the national economy. Visit us online at weather.gov and on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/US.National.Weather.Service.gov>.